United Nations A/AC.257/33

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 January 2002

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development
Fourth session
14-25 January 2002
Item 1 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development

Fifth report of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee

1. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development has continued its work of carrying out the responsibilities given to it by the Committee and the General Assembly. The present report reviews the work of the Bureau since the resumed third session of the Committee and recommends that the Committee take a number of decisions at its fourth session.

I. Themes of ministerial round tables

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/245 B, requested the Bureau to prepare proposals for the consideration and decision of the Committee at its third resumed session on the specific format and rules of procedure of the Conference as well as possible round tables or other suitable arrangements for the various segments of the Conference. The Bureau presented those proposals to the Committee in its fourth report (see A/AC.257/29, paras. 10-21 and A/AC.257/29/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1). On the recommendation of the Committee at its resumed third session, the General Assembly adopted decisions 56/444 on the format of the Conference and 56/445 on the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference. In paragraph 1 of the annex to Assembly decision 56/444, it is stated that the Conference would be divided into a high-level official segment, a ministerial segment and a summit segment, and that there would be four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables during the summit segment and eight during the ministerial segment. Although the theme of the round tables to be held during the summit segment is contained in paragraph 2 of the annex to the same decision, that paragraph also stipulates that the themes of the ministerial round-table meetings would be left for decision by the Committee at its fourth session.

3. At the Bureau's first meeting following the resumed third session of the Committee, the Bureau requested that the Vice-Chairman, Jana Simonová (Czech Republic), conduct consultations among interested Bureau members in order to come up with proposals for themes for the ministerial round tables. Following a series of consultations, the following themes were proposed to the Bureau:

> Tuesday, 19 March 2002: "Partnerships in financing development"

* A/AC.257/31.

02-20051 (E) 080102

Wednesday, 20 March 2002: "Coherence for development"

The Bureau welcomed the proposals and expressed sincere appreciation for the efforts of Ms. Simonová and the informal group of Bureau members to reach consensus on the proposed themes. The Bureau extends its full support to the proposed themes.

II. Stakeholder engagement

4. The three major institutional stakeholders have continued to actively participate in the work of the Committee and the financing for development process. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) played a major role in preparing the focus on the Conference at the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of IMF and the World Bank on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee), and at the joint dinner of the Development Committee and the ministerial International Monetary and Finance Committee of IMF, in which the Secretary-General participated, which was held in Ottawa in November 2001. Following those meetings, the Co-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee met informally with the Deputy Managing Director of IMF to discuss those meetings and future preparations for the Conference.

5. In addition, following the Doha ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Co-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee were invited to meet with the WTO Committee on Trade and Development, which is the focal point for WTO members for the Conference. The Co-Chairman, Ruth Jacoby (Sweden), accordingly met with the Committee on 26 November 2001, when progress in the preparatory process and the continued participation of the WTO in the process were reviewed.

6. On behalf of the Bureau and the Preparatory Committee, the Co-Chairmen have encouraged the continued active participation of the major institutional stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

7. It should also be noted that the Co-Chairmen, other members of the Bureau and other members of the Preparatory Committee have continued to participate in consultations with civil society and the business community on financing for development, including a meeting of civil society representatives in New York that was organized by the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, regional meetings of the World Economic Forum for East Asia and South Asia, and meetings of the Business Council for the United Nations in New York.

III. Accreditation and other matters

8. The Bureau has received requests from the following seven intergovernmental organizations for accreditation as intergovernmental organizations to the financing for development process: Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliamentary Network of the World Bank, Ramsar, and OPEC Fund for International Development. It has also received requests from a significant number of additional non-governmental organizations for accreditation as non-governmental organizations to the financing for development process (see A/AC.257/10/Add.5) and from four additional business-sector organizations for accreditation as business-sector participants to the financing for development process (see A/AC.257/30/Add.1). The Bureau recommends favourable action by the Committee with respect to those requests.

9. On another matter, the Bureau expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland for their recent generous contributions to the financing for development extrabudgetary trust fund.

IV. Recommendations

10. The Bureau recommends that the Preparatory Committee approve the themes for the round tables to be held during the ministerial segment of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as described in paragraph 3 above.

11. The Bureau also recommends that the Committee accredit, in the appropriate category, the organizations cited in paragraph 8 above.